

**BURR OAK WOODS CONSERVATION NATURE CENTER** is located one mile north of I-70 on Hwy 7, one mile west on Park Road. The Nature Center is open Monday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and noon to 5:00 p.m. on Sundays. **Area Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** No pets are allowed. There is no admission fee. **Phone: 816-228-3766**  
**TDD: 816-655-6268**

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## Watch For In 2006

Watch for the following special events in 2006! You won't want to miss any of them!

March 10: Friday Night Live:  
Snakes Alive!

April 23: Passport to Adventure:  
Kick-off at Union Station

June 24: Prairie Day

August 18: The Night Fliers

September 16: Women in the Outdoors

*The Nutshell*  
Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center  
Missouri Department of Conservation  
1401 NW Park Road - Blue Springs, Mo 64015



# The Nutshell

*Burr Oak Woods Conservation Nature Center Newsletter*

**Volume 20 January 2006 Number 01**



## Where Did They All Go?

The busy Holidays are over and I am ready to relax and enjoy some wildlife in the Missouri outdoors. Outdoors? Winter? Cold? Everyone that knows me, knows I try to hibernate in the winter! Well, today I am going to be brave and layer on the clothes (okay, so three layers), put on my boots, coat, hat, gloves, and bury my face in my scarf. I head out into the crisp Missouri winter air and go for a stroll in search of some wildlife. I walk out into the woods and look...listen...nothing. Where did they all go?

As I walk around, I see.....

No woodchucks, but then I remember, they are sleeping all cozy in their underground nests. (Somewhere I wish I could be instead of this cold).

Woodchucks are true hibernators, which means they go into a deep sleep during the winter months. In the fall, they eat extra food to store as body fat as an energy reserve. To conserve energy, they lower their body temperature and reduce their heartbeat.

No box turtles, but then I remember they burrow in loose soil to escape the cold.  
No frogs, but they bury in the mud at the bottom of ponds.  
No snakes, but they find shelter in holes or burrows.

Turtles, frogs, and snakes do not actually hibernate. Instead, they go into a state of torpor, which means they remain inactive during the winter months.

No insects, but then I remember they find shelter in the ground, under tree bark, under rotting vegetation, or in small cracks.

Insects go into a state of diapause. This means the growth and development of the insect stops and they remain inactive during the winter months. This occurs during different stages of their life, whether it be during larva, pupa, or adult stages.

No hummingbirds, but then I remember they left us for the winter for warmer climate. (I do not blame them).

No monarch butterflies, but they also left us for warmer climate.

Hummingbirds and monarchs migrate to areas where food is more available for their active little bodies.

I look down to see a track in the snow. It was a bobcat track! Four round toes, no claw marks. It has to be a bobcat track! There is wildlife out in the winter!

Many animals have adapted to Missouri's winters and stay active during these months. I have a lot of respect for these animals because I have not yet adapted to winter.

Animals in winter may grow thicker fur to keep warm. Or they may even go as far as growing white fur in the winter to blend in with the white snow like the long-tailed weasel. Birds fluff up their feathers to keep warm air next to their bodies.

Some animals gather food in the fall when food is plentiful and save it for a time when it is scarce. Some animals fatten up for the winter so they have fat reserves to help them get by hard times during the winter. Animals can also alter their diets to food that can be found in the colder months, rather than the warmer months.

Just like magic, I begin to notice all kinds of signs animals leave behind!

As I continue to walk, I see...

A feather on the ground left by a blue jay.  
A raccoon track in the snow.  
A hole in a tree trunk made by a woodpecker.  
Scat left behind from a deer.  
A nest of leaves and twigs from a squirrel.  
A hole in the ground dug by a skunk.  
A tree that has been cut down by a beaver.

There are so many signs of wildlife that I missed before. Now that I realize what I am looking for, clues are everywhere! I do not have to see the animals themselves to see the wildlife, but instead, carefully observe the little clues they leave behind.

My challenge to you is to bundle up and get outdoors this winter to watch the quiet winter come to life right before your eyes!!

*Shalena Tolbert,  
Naturalist*



**Helping Missourians connect with nature and conserve it, too!**

# January Programs

## PROGRAM REGISTRATION

Please call 816-228-3766 (TDD 816-655-6268)

### ON OR AFTER THE FIRST OF THE MONTH

to register for the free programs listed. It is important to arrive five minutes before the program time. If you have to cancel, please call as soon as possible so someone on the waiting list can attend.

7 Saturday

### Families:

#### For the Birds

Not all birds migrate when the weather gets cold. During this class we will do a feeder watch and after observing the birds that are still around, we will make suet cakes and simple feeders to take home for your own backyard birds. Please call to register.

Families / 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

8 Sunday

#### Gripped by the Talons of Winter

Have you ever wondered how birds can survive winter without boots for their tiny feet, or how rabbits' ears stay warm without stocking caps? During this program we will look at the ways animals survive winter and some things we can do to help them. Please call to register.

Families / 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.



Come join us as we feed the animals at Burr Oak Woods CNC Sunday, Wednesday or Friday at 3:00 p.m.

14 Saturday

### Missouri Conservation Frontiers:

#### Conservation Storybook

Frontiers members! Now is your chance to write a conservation-related storybook and present it to children of all ages! You will have time to write and illustrate the book. Then invite your family and friends, as well as the public to come listen to your story. We will supply the materials, but if you have some old nature magazines, you are welcome to bring them. Please call to register. All ages / 10:00 a.m. - Noon

14 Saturday

#### Conservation Storybook Reading

Join the Missouri Conservation Frontiers members in their storytelling! They have worked all morning making a conservation-related storybook and are now ready to present it to children of all ages! Their books will be full of illustrations and storytelling FUN! All ages/ 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

15 Sunday

### Adults Only:

#### Stress Relief Hike

The Holidays are finally over and its time to take a deep breath and relax. Join us for a relaxing hike in the crisp winter air. We will meet at the Bethany Falls Trail and take a hike down its gorgeous path. Dress for the weather. Please call to register. Adults Only 18 and up / 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

17 Tuesday

### O.A.K.S. Outdoors:

#### Eagle Watch Field Trip

Join the group as we travel to Smithville Lake for a special day of Eagle viewing. Please meet at the Nature Center. The van rolls out promptly at 9:00 am. We will return at 2 pm. Dress for the weather! Bring your camera and binoculars! Please call to register. Adults Ages 55 and up / 9:00a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



17 Tuesday

### Conservation Kid's Club:

#### Fun to be a Flintknapper

What is a flintknapper? Flintknapping is the ancient art form of making stone tools, and is part of everyone's heritage. Throughout history, wildlife has provided people with many of our basic needs; food, clothing, shelter and tools. In this session we will learn how deer antlers can be used to form arrowheads and other stone tools. Join us and make your own arrowhead or create a unique tool. Don't miss this very special program! Please call to register. Ages 7 - 10 / 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

18 Wednesday

### HomeSchool:

#### How Do They Do It?

#### The Mystery of Winter Survival

Your students will explore the ways used by animals and people to live through the bitter cold of winter. We will use fun, educational, hands-on activities that may take us outdoors so dress for the weather! Please call to register.

Ages 3 - 5 or 6 - 8 / 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

or 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Ages 9 - 11 or 12 and up / 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

or 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.



## Burr Oak Woods Volunteer Class of 2006 We Need You!

We will begin a new volunteer training class in January! If you are interested in sharing your love for nature with others, we need you! Volunteer Naturalists help the nature center staff in so many ways including: assisting with our educational programs, special events, clerical support, animal care, and land management projects. We are currently accepting applications for the 2006 Volunteer Training Class. To apply for this training, please stop by or contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Lisa LaCombe at 816-655-6263 ext. 232 between now and January 15th. We anticipate that the 30 hour training class will begin at the end of January and run through April culminating in graduation of the Volunteer Class of 2006!

21 Saturday

### Deaf and Hard of Hearing:

#### Animal Signatures

How can we tell if animals have been around? They often leave signatures or clues. Find out how to read these clues to find out what's been there. Bring a pre-washed t-shirt or sweatshirt, any color, and we will help you put some animal signatures on it! This program will be presented in sign language. Please call to register. All Ages / 10:00 a.m. - Noon

21 Saturday

### Rockin' & Readin' Nature Tales

Join us for our story hour as we lead you on fantastic nature adventures! We will meet butterflies, birds, mammals, and all sorts of magnificent creatures! We will cross rivers, discover mysteries within the forest, and fly across the prairies. We are only limited by our imagination. Your child(ren) will not want to miss these stories of exploration and discovery. No registration required. Ages 2 and up / 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

21 Saturday

### Reminder! Adults:

#### Brain Tanned Leather

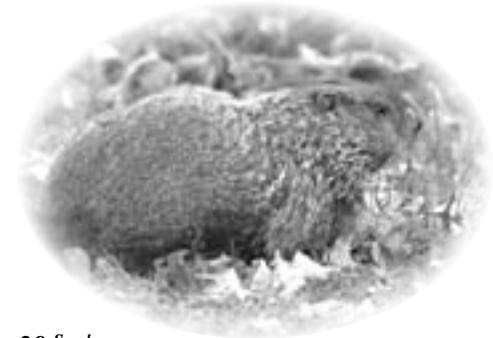
If you are participating in the Brain Tanned Leather three part program, part two will be held on Saturday, January 21st from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

26 Thursday or 28 Saturday

### Little Acorns:

#### Groundhog Hoopla!

Groundhog Day is fast approaching. On February 2nd, legend has it that if a groundhog sees its shadow we will have six more weeks of winter. Find out how this legend got started and if there is any truth to the fable. Is spring around the corner or can we plan on more snow days? Hope to see you there! Please call to register. Ages 3 - 6 / Thursday 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. or 11:00 - Noon or 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. Saturday 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.



29 Sunday

### Burr Oak Woods

#### 3rd Annual Photography Competition

Photographs are currently on display. Photographers, thank you for sharing your wonderful talents with Burr Oak Woods! Winning entries will be announced at 1:00 p.m.

## Natural Happenings

- On your nature hike, keep an eye out for fallen deer antlers. Bucks begin to drop their antlers this month.
- Beautiful Arctic snowy owls can be seen in Missouri when food in their wintering grounds is scarce.
- WHAT'S THAT SOUND? Pileated woodpeckers are drumming to establish territories and it can get quite loud!

## Nature Shop News

January Featured Item

### Where Eagles Soar

dvd

regular price \$10.<sup>00</sup> plus tax

**featured price**

**\$8.<sup>00</sup> plus tax**

Heritage card discount does not apply



## JANUARY PROGRAMS AT LAKE CITY RANGE

28900 E Argo Road

Grain Valley, Mo 64029

816-229-4448

[www.mdc.state.mo/areas/ranges/lakecity](http://www.mdc.state.mo/areas/ranges/lakecity)

We are pleased to let people know about several of the programs offered by the Missouri Department of Conservation's Lake City Range. Be sure to call 816-229-4448 for information and to register for these programs.

7 Saturday

### Basic .22 cal Rifle

9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

10 Tuesday

### Building a Bird House

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

11 Wednesday

### Basic Fly Tying Part I

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

18 Wednesday

### Basic Fly Tying Part II

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

21 Saturday

### Youth Wood Carving

8:00 - 11:00 a.m.

22 Sunday

### Reloader's Clinic

9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

25 Wednesday

### Basic Fly Tying Part III

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

26 Thursday

### How-to Measure Antlers

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

27 Friday

### How-to Build a Fishing Rod

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

28 Saturday

### Basic Wood Carving

8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

29 Sunday

### Build a Bird Feeder

9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

For more information call us at 816-228-3766 or visit our web site at [burroakwoods.org](http://burroakwoods.org)